

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing of claims in the application:

**Listing of claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended) An ingestable composition for the photoprotection of the skin ~~which comprises~~ comprising a photoprotecting effective amount of i) at least one probiotic lactic acid bacterium or a culture supernatant thereof, and ii) at least one component selected from the group consisting of yeast, and/or carotenoid and or derivative derivatives thereof, included ~~into~~ in an ingestable carrier.

Claim 2 (currently amended) An ingestable A-composition according to claim 1, wherein ~~in which~~ the lactic acid bacterium is selected from the group consisting of ~~lactic acid bacteria,~~ preferably Lactobacilli, Bifidobacteria ~~and or~~ Enterococci.

Claim 3 (currently amended) An ingestable A-composition according to claim 1 or 2, ~~wherein in which~~ the lactic acid bacterium is selected from the group consisting of *Lactobacillus johnsonii*, *Lactobacillus reuteri*, *Lactobacillus rhamnosus*, *Lactobacillus paracasei*, *Lactobacillus casei* or *Bifidobacterium bifidum*, *Bifidobacterium breve*, *Bifidobacterium longum*, *Bifidobacterium animalis*, *Bifidobacterium lactic*, *Bifidobacterium infantis*, *Bifidobacterium adolescentis*, *Bifidobacterium pseudocatenulatum*, *Enterococcus faecium*, *Enterococcus sp.* and mixtures or a mixture thereof.

Claim 4 (currently amended) An ingestable A-composition according to one of claims claim 1 to 3, wherein ~~in which~~ the lactic acid bacterium is selected from the group consisting of CNCM I-1225, CNCM I-2116, CNCM I-2168 ~~and or~~ CNCM I-2170.

Claim 5 (currently amended) An ingestable A-composition according to one of claims claim 1 to 4, wherein ~~in which~~ the probiotic lactic acid bacterium is included ~~into~~ in the carrier in a live form selected from the group consisting of live, semi-active and deactivated or in desactivated form, preferably as a lyophilized powder attention.

Claim 6 (currently amended) An ingestable A-composition according to one of claims claim 1 to 5, wherein the carotenoid is selected from the group of a carotenoid carotenoids consisting of carotenoids with provitamin A activity and or without provitamin A activity, such as  ~~$\beta$ -carotene,  $\gamma$ -carotene,  $\alpha$ -carotene, lycopene, zeaxanthine and luteine, or a mixture thereof.~~

Claim 7 (currently amended) An ingestable ~~A composition according to one of claims claim 1 to 6,~~ wherein the yeast is selected from the group consisting of *Debaryomyces*, *Kluyveromyces*, *Saccharomyces*, *Yarrowia*, *Zygosaccharomyces*, *Candida* and *Rhodotorula*, and mixtures or a mixture thereof.

Claim 8 (currently amended) An ingestable ~~A composition according to claim 7~~ 1, wherein the yeast is *S. cerevisiae*.

Claim 9 (currently amended) ~~A composition according to one of claims 1 to 8, which is in the form of~~

i) ~~— a nutritionally complete pet food comprising a photoprotecting effective amount of at least one probiotic lactic acid bacterium or a culture supernatant thereof, and at least one component selected from the group consisting of yeast, carotenoid and derivatives thereof, included in an ingestable carrier in a powdered, dried or a wet, chilled or shelf stable form or,~~

ii) ~~— in the form of a dietary adjunct or a supplement or a treat.~~

Claim 10 (currently amended) A method of preparing a therapeutic composition for skin disorders comprising the steps of: using ~~Use of~~ a photoprotecting effective amount of at least one probiotic lactic acid bacterium or a culture supernatant thereof and at least one yeast and or carotenoid, for preparing an ingestable carrier ~~for the protection of the skin against solar radiations and attenuating or preventing all related skin disorders.~~

Claim 11 (currently amended) The method use according to claim 10, wherein in ~~which~~ the lactic acid bacterium is selected from the group consisting of *Lactobacillus johnsonii*, *Lactobacillus reuteri*, *Lactobacillus rhamnosus*, *Lactobacillus paracasei*, *Lactobacillus casei* or *Bifidobacterium bifidum*, *Bifidobacterium breve*, *Bifidobacterium longum*, *Bifidobacterium animalis*, *Bifidobacterium lactis*, *Bifidobacterium infantis*, *Bifidobacterium adolescentis*, *Bifidobacterium pseudocatenulatum*, ~~or a mixture thereof~~ *Bifidobacterium psudocatenulatum*, *Enterococcus faecium*, *Enterococcus sp.* and mixtures or a mixture thereof.

Claim 12 (currently amended) The method use according to claim 10 ~~or 11~~, wherein the lactic acid bacterium is selected from the group consisting of CNCM I-1225, CNCM I-2116, CNCM I-2168, CNCM I-2170 and ~~or~~ ATCC 27536.

Claim 13 (currently amended) The method use according to ~~one of claims claim 10 to 12,~~ wherein the yeast is selected from the group consisting of *Debaryomyces*, *Kluyveromyces*,

*Saccharomyces*, *Yarrowia*, *Zygosaccharomyces*, *Candida* and *Rhodotorula*, ~~or a mixture and mixtures thereof.~~

Claim 14 (currently amended)      The method use according to ~~one of claims claim~~ 10 to 13, wherein the probiotic lactic acid bacterium is present in the carrier in an amount of from about  $10^5$  to  $10^{12}$  cfu/ g of the carrier and, the yeast from about  $10^5$  to  $10^{15}$  cfu/ g of the carrier.

Claim 15 (currently amended)      The method use according to ~~one of claims claim~~ 10 to 13, wherein the carotenoid is present in the carrier in an amount of from  $10^{-12}\%$  to 20% by weight.

Claim 16 (currently amended)      The method use according to ~~any of claims claim~~ 10 to 15, wherein the ~~for the preparation of a composition~~ is intended for reducing the effects of photoageing in pets.

Claim 17 (currently amended)      A method for improving the photoprotective function of the skin of pets, comprising which comprises the step steps of orally administering to ~~the a~~ pet a therapeutically-effective amount of a composition comprising ~~the combination of i)~~ at least one probiotic lactic acid bacteria or a culture supernatant thereof, and ~~ii)~~ at least one yeast, ~~and/or~~ carotenoid or derivative thereof, in an ingestible carrier.

Claim 18 (currently amended)      A method according to claim 17, wherein the lactic acid bacterium is selected from the group consisting of Lactobacilli, Bifidobacteria and Enterococci in which the composition is according to claims 1 to 9.

Claim 19 (new)      A method according to claim 17, wherein the lactic acid bacterium is selected from the group consisting of *Lactobacillus johnsonii*, *Lactobacillus reuteri*, *Lactobacillus rhamnosus*, *Lactobacillus paracasei*, *Lactobacillus casei* or *Bifidobacterium bifidum*, *Bifidobacterium breve*, *Bifidobacterium longum*, *Bifidobacterium animalis*, *Bifidobacterium lactis*, *Bifidobacterium infantis*, *Bifidobacterium adolescentis*, *Bifidobacterium pseudocatenulatum*, *Enterococcus faecium*, *Enterococcus sp.* and mixtures thereof.

Claim 20 (new)      A method according to claim 17, wherein the lactic acid bacterium is selected from the group consisting of CNCM I-1225, CNCM I-2116, CNCM I-2168 and CNCM I-2170.

Claim 21 (new)      A method according to claim 17, wherein the probiotic lactic acid bacterium is included into the carrier in a form selected from the group consisting of: live, semi-active and desactivated.

Claim 22 (new)      A method according to claim 17, wherein the carotenoid is selected from the group of carotenoids consisting of carotenoids with provitamin A activity and without provitamin A activity.

Claim 23 (new)      A method according to claim 17, wherein the yeast is selected from the group consisting of *Debaryomyces*, *Kluyveromyces*, *Saccharomyces*, *Yarrowia*, *Zygosaccharomyces*, *Candida* and *Rhodotorula*, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 24 (new)      A composition according to claim 1, in which the probiotic lactic acid bacterium is included in the carrier in a lyophilized powder form.

Claim 25 (new)      A composition according to claim 1, wherein the carotenoid is selected from the group consisting of  $\beta$ -carotene,  $\gamma$ -carotene,  $\alpha$ -carotene, lycopene, zeaxanthine, luteine, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 26 (new)      A composition according to claim 9, wherein the pet food is in a form selected from the group consisting of powdered, dried, wet, chilled, and shelf stable form.

Claim 27 (new)      The method of claim 10, wherein a photoprotecting effective amount of composition is used for the protection of the skin against solar radiations.

Claim 28 (new)      A composition in a form selected from the group consisting of a dietary adjunct, a supplement, and a treat comprising an ingestible composition for the photoprotection of the skin comprising a photoprotecting effective amount of at least one probiotic lactic acid bacterium or a culture supernatant thereof, and at least one component selected from the group consisting of yeast, carotenoid and derivatives thereof, included into an ingestible carrier.

Claim 29 (new)      A method for protecting skin, which comprises the step of orally administering a composition comprising a component selected from the group consisting of at least one probiotic lactic acid bacteria or a culture supernatant thereof, and at least one yeast, carotenoid, and derivatives thereof, in an ingestible carrier.

## REMARKS

Pursuant to this Preliminary Amendment, Claims 1-18 have been amended and newly-submitted Claims 19-29 have been added. This Preliminary Amendment does not add new subject matter. Moreover, Applicants note for the record that the Preliminary Amendment is submitted to place the above-identified application in proper U.S. format and not to avoid prior art. Therefore, Applicants do not intend to disclaim any subject matter in view of the Preliminary Amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

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